

62 Years of DX-cellence

February 2010



BULLetin

The Southern California DX Club Newsletter est. 1947

*"If you need him
get in there and
work him"*

The Southern California DX Club is a group of dedicated men and women active in the amateur radio community who enjoy communicating over the air with other radio amateurs around the world.

The newsletter is published every month and is released to it's members on about the first of each month. Amateur and DX related letters, news and pictures are welcome and will be published as time and space permit.

Articles may be republished with the recognition of the author and the club. Reuse of copyrighted materials require the original author's permission.

Any questions regarding this newsletter or it's articles should be addressed to the editor, Bill
n6rv@scdxc.org

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM except April, June and December.

Please check the club web site for events and details at
<http://www.scdxc.org>

If you are in the area please say hello on our repeater
W6AM/R145.48,(-) 100Hz PL



NEXT MEETING
February 11th
1930 PST (7:30 PM)

Don't forget the meal at The Roll and Rye before the meeting!

-
- **Program for February**
Our Own Skip Bolnick KJ6Y / VY2
On Prince Edward Island
 - **Meet the 2010 Board!**
 - **2010 ARRL DX Competition**
Propagation Predicts
Band Plan & Strategy
 - **Member Profile**
Meet John Schroeder, N6QQ
-

Making friends all over the world using the magic of Amateur Radio.
Sponsors of the International DX Convention at Visalia, since 1949

Welcome Back Don!



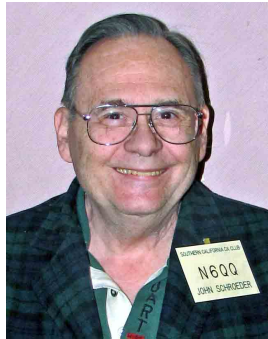
To everyone's delight Don Bostrom, N6IC, attended the January meeting! He looked great and was happy to be here! Not to scare anyone but Don is not the guy on the left. That's Joe, K5KT. It is truly amazing to see you recover so quickly Don. There is an angel on your shoulder!



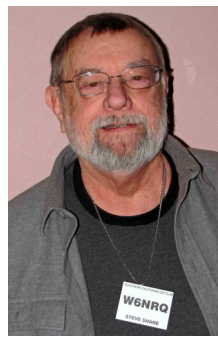
Meet Your 2010 SCDXC Board



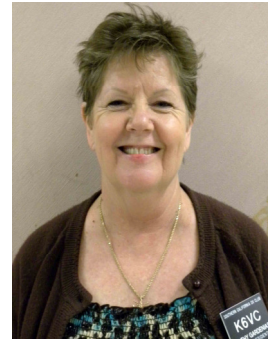
**President
Larry Mallek
K6YUI**



**Vice President
John Schroeder
N6QQ**



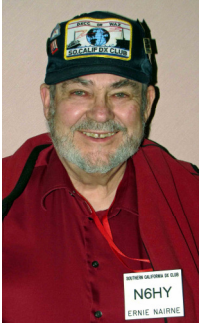
**Secretary
Steve Shane
W6NRQ**



**Treasurer
Cathy Gardenias
K6VC**



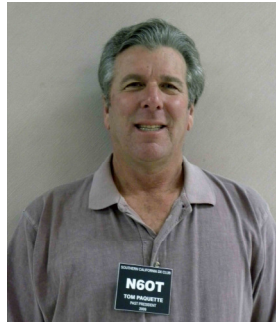
**Membership
Mel Hughes
K6SY**



**Director
Ernie Nairne
N6HY**



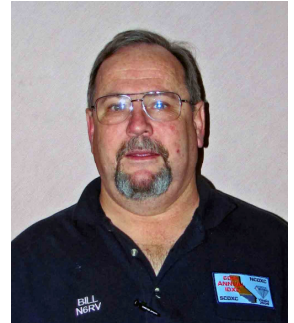
**Director
Carl Gardenias**



**Director
Tom Paquette
N6OT**

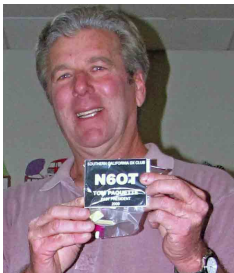


**Repeater
Edgar Brown
N6OU**



**Editor
Bill Kendrick
N6RV**

Thank You For Your Service!



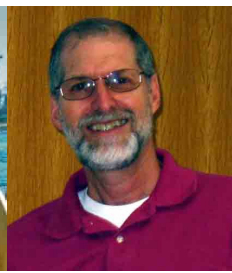
**President
Tom Paquette
N6OT**



**Vice President
Arnie Shatz
N6HC**



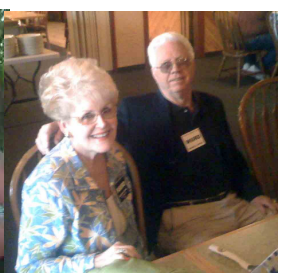
**Treasurer
Doc Holub
K6OGO**



**Director
Don Minkoff
NK6A**



**Director
Sharon Spring
K6IRD**



**Director
Wayne Spring
W6IRD**

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

It is that time of year again! Membership dues are due by Dec. 31st. Members delinquent after Jan. 31 will receive an e-mail notice and will be dropped from the Club roster if dues are not received within 30 days following notification. Please fill out and include an application with your dues. You can download the form at <http://www.scdxc.org/download/membership-app.pdf>



Southern California DX Club, Inc.

[Membership Renewal \[\]](#)

[New Member Application \[\]](#)

Date _____

Name _____ Birthday (MM) _____ Call Sign _____

Spouses Name _____ Birthday (MM) _____ Call Sign _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Home: (_____) _____ - _____ [] Do not list in club directory

Work: (_____) _____ - _____ [] Do not list in club directory

E-mail: _____ [] Do not list in club directory or web site

Have you confirmed 40 CQ Zones? Not yet: [] Yes [] I have a WAZ certificate: []

Have you confirmed 100 Countries? Not yet: [] Yes [] I have a DXCC certificate: []

Are you an ARRL Member? No: [] Yes: [] Life: []

Renewal Membership, Full or Associate - \$18.00 USD Per Calendar Year (Jan – Dec)
(Additional Family Members \$4.50 USD ea)

Overseas / Supporting Membership - \$18.00 USD Per Calendar Year (Jan-Dec)

New Membership, All Types - \$1.50 Times the Number of Months Remaining in Year
(Example: Join in September, pay 4 x \$1.50 – Family Members @ additional 25%)

BADGES

Small: (1.5"H X 2"W) [] Medium: (2"H X 3"W) [] Large: (3"H X 3.75"W) []
\$9.00 USD ea including postage (to US addresses)

For badge shipping costs to overseas locations contact Mel Hughes, K6SY at k6sy@scdxc.org.

Make checks payable to Southern California DX Club or SCDXC

Mail Membership Fees and/or Badge Fees to:

Mel Hughes, K6SY, 28017 San Nicolas Dr., Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275

For club use only

Dues recvd by _____ Amt \$ _____ Date _____ Full Member []

QSLs verified by _____ Date _____ Associate Member []

DXCC _____ WAZ _____ Former Member _____ At-Large Member []

Notes: _____ Supporting Member []



THE PREZ SEZ

Larry Mallek, K6YUI,
President – Southern California DX
Club
k6yui@scdxc.org

I would like to take this time to say Thank You to all the members that showed up at the January meeting. I can not remember when we had standing room only at any meeting in many years.

I want to thank all the members that supported me for the office of President. I will do everything I can to make sure that your trust in me as President is accomplished.

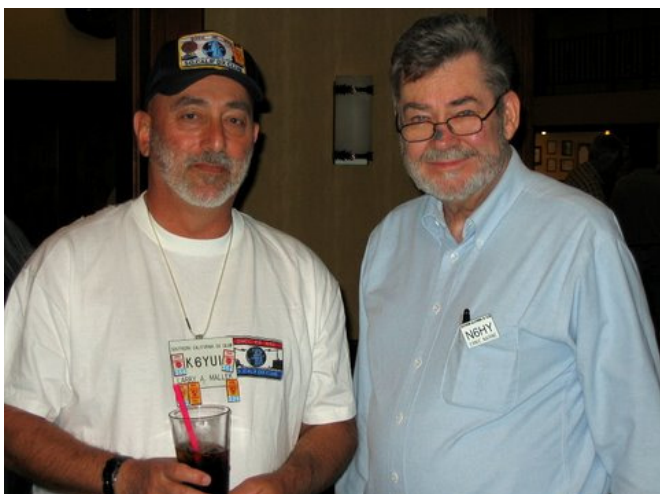
One of the great things about the board members for 2010 is that we have 4 members that have been president before. With people like this on the board I think that we will have a great year.

Remember that the DX Convention is coming up in April and that we need any applications for the Clipperton Award and nominations for the DXer of the year in the hands of the board by the first of March. Remember that if you are going for the Clipperton award that Log Book of the World credit does count with your cards that you have in hand. Just print the LOTW info and submit it with the cards to any member of the board for verification.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the February meeting

Larry Mallek K6YUI
President SCDXC

www.scdxc.org/download/Officer_Guidelines_Rev-A.pdf



Treasurer's Report December 2009

Income: \$1648.50
Expenses: -\$2227.90

Officer Guidelines

In 2000 Jim Zimmerman, N6KZ, and Chuck Constantine, KR6C generated a set of guidelines for club officers. Steve Shane, W6NRQ, headed up an effort to update these guidelines. The board reviewed and approved them. They are posted at the site to the left under Tom's article

**GET YOUR DXER OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS AND CLIPPERTON
AWARD APPLICATIONS IN ASAP.**
THE DEADLINE IS MARCH 1st!

VICE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

John Schroeder, N6QQ,

Vice President – Southern California DX Club

n6qq@scdxc.org

Hello Everyone!

I would like to thank those who came out and voted! It was quite a turnout. We have already started working to make this year a great one. A week after the elections we held the first board meeting of 2010 followed by a Visalia IDXC planning meeting. Personally I met lots of people and gained a lot of insight about the workings of the SCDXC. There was a lot of discussion with lots of different opinions and ways to work out club issues. I have a good idea what my new duties as Vice President will be. There is a lot of support and experience on the board. We have begun to function as a team. I am already out buying goodies for the February Raffle.

This month's speaker is Skip Bolnick, KJ6Y. Skip will be presenting a program on VY2, Prince Edward Island. Skip has been working, visiting and operating from PEI for the past several years. Knowing Skip I am sure it will be a great presentation.

Looking for new countries? There are three major contests in February.

- 1) Feb 14-15 WPX RTTY Contest
- 2) Feb 21-22 ARRL INT'L DX CW Contest
- 3) Feb 28 - Mar 1 -- NA QSO PARTY RTTY Contest

Take a look at what Bill has put into the Bulletin for working the ARRL DX Contest. This will give you a good picture what to expect for band openings and timing for band openings.

See you at the February Meeting.

73, John N6QQ
Vice-President, SCDXC

Club Awards



DXer of The Year

Nominations for DXer of the Year 2009 are still open. Please forward your nomination letter to our club secretary.

The Clipperton Award

Applications for the Clipperton Award are now open. If you are a new member this is a great award to go after.

Please see the first website listed beneath John's column.

WE ARE SERIOUS ABOUT THIS!
GET YOUR DXER OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS AND CLIPPERTON AWARD APPLICATIONS IN ASAP.
THE DEADLINE IS MARCH 1st!



THE EDITOR

Bill Kendrick, N6RV, Editor – Southern California DX Club n6rv@scdxc.org

The elections are over and it is time to settle into getting ready for the convention. But before the convention comes three months of chasing DX and contesting. Included in this month's issue are the propagation predictions for the second set of major DX contests, The ARRL International DX Competition. Hopefully Old Sol will give us a large sunspot or two and the SFI will go above 100! In any event be on the hunt for rare ones before and after each contest weekend. Even the non-DXpedition DX will be warming up.

Back to the convention things are kicking into high gear! We have started looking at DX programs for the banquet and breakfast, lining up vendors, collecting the prizes and looking at interesting and thought provoking talks. Please look at the convention page later in this newsletter for the latest and greatest. It is going to be the best convention ever! Do you have your hotel reservations lined up? How about pre-registering? You won't want to miss this years convention.

I have been remiss in greeting the newcomers. I apologize for this. I will be delegating the meeting photography work to Keith, K6LD, whenever he is at the meeting. He has a better camera and knows how to use it. I want all the new members who joined last year to come to the meeting and we will take a group shot for next month's newsletter. Thanks for joining us. If you feel left out then tap me on the shoulder and I personally will introduce to as many of the members I can. You know I only know half of them and we have to do something to remedy this! **Everybody greet someone you do not know at the next meeting.** Tell them a little bit about yourself. Heck! We are hams and we do not lack in the gift of gab!

Finally I want to thank all the contributors. Wow! Look at the Spurious Output column. Now that is input from an active membership. You want antennas? You want announcements? You want the latest on what is going on among the members then send it in! Look at what some of our members are doing. If it only wasn't raining I would be ... How about working on your station inside, doing those little fixes you wanted to do for sometime? How about having a few of your younger relatives over for a demonstration and maybe a little mentoring? And when you finish send it in and let us know what you are up to!

73, de N6RV ... -.. -..

*p.s. Microsoft Publisher 2007 failed to open the newsletter many times again. In fact it got to the point where I could not open any of the files! I thought I was done and I would have to rebuild the whole template. Fortunately there was a hot fix on the Microsoft website that solved the problem. Now if I had only installed it 4 months ago I would have saved hundreds of hours of rework... **Thank You Microsoft***

New Members

I have taken on the task of greeting new members in a unique way. I will be at each meeting with camera in hand. I would like to take a photo of each new member and jot down a few tidbits for this side bar. Unfortunately last meeting I was asleep at the wheel. If you are a new member and attend the meeting please stop by. It will be my pleasure to do the honors! This includes anyone I missed this year!

Please welcome new members:

**Mary Gray
KH6VZ**

**Diana Feinberg
AI6DF**

**Randy Johnson
W6SJ**

**Jim Porter
N6AJR**

**Christina Porter
N6GTY**

**Jerry Solomon
W6CCC**

**John Self
K6VFR**

**Robert Collins
W6WBY**

**Bart Susman
K6UNR**

**Alan Toll
W6JNU**

**Rick Sokkeli
AE6RS**

**Make sure you meet
and greet them at the
next meeting!**

RUMORS ON THE BAND

A plethora of announcements, rumors, and serious DX fun

This month expect several DXpeditions during and around the ARRL International DX Competitions. Since the Phone and CW weekends are only two weeks apart many operators go on the road for the whole period. Some change QTHs others stay put and enjoy the local environment.

Orange Information indicate particularly rare entities and **Red information** indicate SCDXC member attended DXpedition. As always you have to turn on your radio to work them. Spend a few hours chasing these guys and reacquaint yourself with the fun of DXing!

It looks like some interesting operations going on. Bangladesh, Kenya, Temotu, and Cocos are particularly interesting! Join in the fray!

Club member Randy Johnson, W6SJ, announced he will be back in the Bahamas for a holiday style DXpedition from Feb 5 until Feb 10. If you hear him on give him a shout.

Useful DX Sites

N0HR DXpedition Map
www.n0hr.com/wk34/

The DX Zone
www.dxzone.com/catalog/DX_Resources/

The Daily DX
www.dailydx.com/

Announced DX Ops
www.nq3k.com/misc/adxo.html

DXing.info
[/www.dxing.info/dxpeditions/](http://www.dxing.info/dxpeditions/)

DX 425 News
www.425dxn.org/dxped/

Dx-info.de
www.dx-info.de

DX Italia DX News
www.marioi2mqp.it

Call	QTH	Start Date	End Date	Information	Website
A6	United Arab Emirates	Now	2/8/2010	VE6LB/A6 mostly CW	
J8	St. Vincent Island	Now	2/12/2010	K2CM 20 and 40	
J5UAP	Guinea Bissau	Now	3/31/2010	HA3AUI 160-10m	http://cqafrika.net/
6W2SC	Senegal	Now	3/31/2010	HA3AUI 160-10m	http://cqafrika.net/
FO	Austral Islands	Now	2/5/2010	FO/DL1AWI FO/DL3APO FO/DL5XU 160-30m low bands SSB RTTY	
CE0Z	Juan Fernandez	Now	2/2/2010	CE0/JA8BMK 160-10m low bands SSB CW Digital	
5X1NH	Uganda	Now	3/21/2010	G3RWF 160-10m	
6W	Senegal	Now	2/9/2010	6W/GM4FDM 6W/PA3EWP Low Bands, RTTY NA & JA	
6W	Senegal	Now	2/10/2010	6W/HA0NAR	
H44MS	Solomon Islands	Now	4/20/2010	DL2GAC	
PY0F	Fernando de Noronha	Now	2/3/2010	PY2XB all bands CW SSB RTTY PSK	http://dx-hamspirit.com/2009/12/py2xbpy0f-fernando-de-noronha/
TI9	Cocos Island	Now	2/28/2010	Team not set. Dates TBD	
XU7AFU	Cambodia	Now	2/15/2010	ON4AFU	
T6LC	Afghanistan	Now	3/3/2010	W4JJ Mostly 40 & 20	
H40FN	Temotu	2/6/2010	2/19/2010	DL9FN (H40FN (CW)) DL2GAC (H40MS (SSB)) DG1FK (H40FK (Digital)) 160 / 80 focus	
C6AWS	Bahamas	2/5/2010	2/10/2010	W6SJ, Randy Johnson WARC Bands	
J5NAR	Guinea Bissau	2/7/2010	2/14/2010	HA0NAR all bands CW SSB RTTY PSK	
5Z0H	Kenya	2/12/2010	2/25/2010	IK8TEO IK8UHA IK8VRH 160-10m CW SSB RTTY	http://www.ddxc.it/
S21RC	Bangladesh	2/21/2010	2/25/2010	S21RC S21AM S21S S21D	

MEMBER PROFILE

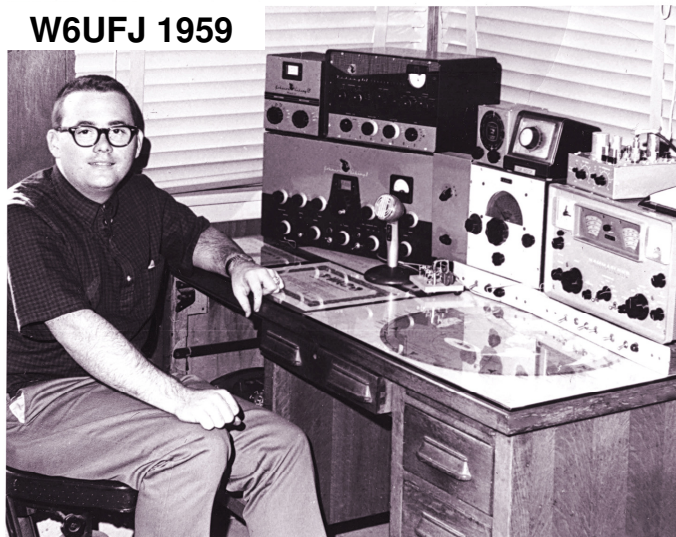


John Schroeder – N6QQ
Cerritos, California
N6QQ@msn.com

You know how you can meet someone socially and never know their background or depth of experience? On rare occasions we get a glimpse into someone's past, however until you sit down and talk to them you just don't see the whole picture. This is the case with our 2010 vice president John Schroeder.

John was born during WWII, October 1942. He has been a ham for 53 years. "It all started back 1953, when I first learned the Morse code in the Boy Scouts. In 1956, I bought my first receiver from Scott's Radio, a Hallicrafters S38D. My first transmitter was a Heathkit AT-1. Next was the Heathkit DX-40." John was first licensed in 1957 at the age of 14 with the Novice call WN6UFJ. In the same year he upgraded to Technician and received the call W6UFJ. A year later John passed his General class test and like many of us moved up the ranks when incentive licensing was initiated. He received the call sign N6QQ in 1977. This was the year the "N" call signs were first issued and any CW operator would give their eye teeth for one. The contesting bug bit John early. In 1957 he operated Field Day with the Downey Amateur Radio Club. Then he went on to operate with K6BPC, The Southern California VHF Club. John also holds a First Radio Telephone license and a First Radio Telegraph license. Last but not least John is active in MARS and holds the calls AC6UFJ and NA6ITU.

To say that John is active is an understatement! He has 320 countries confirmed and has the following awards DXCC, WAZ, WAS, DXCC via OSCAR, WPX (2041), counties 2,880. His satellite operations included 114 countries via Oscar 13 in the early 1990's. John is also one of our ARRL DXCC-WAS-WAC Field Card Checkers. contest QSOs in the past 4 years.



John loves to contest. He can be heard passing out Q's on just about every weekend. Whether it is SSB, CW or RTTY he is going at it full bore! My ears perked up when he said he made over 17,000 QSOs in the 61 contests he participated in last year. He has made 92,000 contest QSOs in the past 4 years. "I have uploaded 84,000 Q's into LOTW. These Q's are from contesting in the last 5 years. I still have 15 ARRL log books to upload."

John normally competes in the single operator assisted category, putting in about 22 hours operating in a typical 48 hour contest. John has found that with his age and low antennas the Single Operator Assisted category maximizes his number QSOs given the operating time. From an analysis he made on two contests John concluded that 20% of his contacts are off of internet cluster announcements and he announced 115 countries himself. 80% of his contacts are search and pounce. He spends very little time calling CQ and running like most stations. I can tell you from personal experience that S&P is a lot more work and requires a lot of energy and focus. Last year alone he logged 625 transmitting hours on his new amplifier. Note that there are only 52 weekends a year and on some of them there are no contests. That means John is in more than one contest a weekend! His favorite contest is the CQWW DX SSB.

Here are his stats for the past five years.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
QSOs	12577	11062	11061	13851	17091
Contests	36	36	43	49	61
Countries					
Mixed	179	187	213	216	249
RTTY	118	123	123	135	151

Last year was a banner year. John achieved the following:

1. 4 all time new entities for total of 324/337
2. 17 new RTTY entities for a total of 222
3. Completed 7BDXCC
4. Completed 5BWAS
5. ARRL LOTW Triple Play
6. DXCC in 9 hours (CQ WW SSB Oct 2009)
7. WAS in 15 hours (Sweepstakes Nov SSB 2009)
Work 48 states in 12 hours, but took an additional 3 hours to work ND and DE.
8. WAS on 160 meters, (ARRL 160 meter - CW) at N6MXU station.

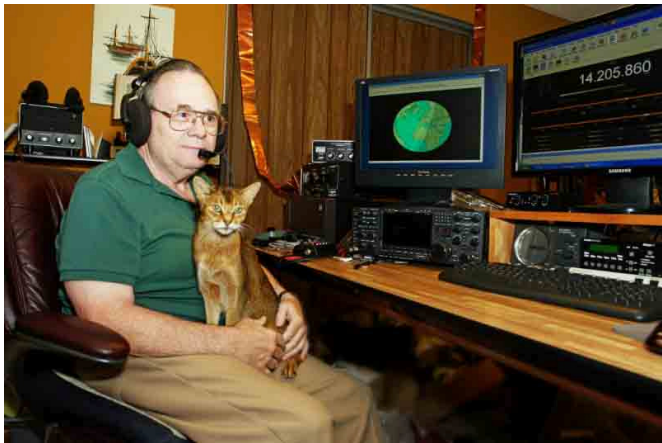
Not only has John worked several countries he has travelled to 53 countries and often was a guest operator. His first taste of world travel was at the age of 5. He stepped across the border to Mexico. At age 8 John went north to Canada. Here is a list of the countries he has visited: 3W, 6Y, 9M2, 9V, BV, BY, DL, DU, EI, F, FG, FM, FS, G, GM, GU, GW, HA, HB, HB0, HL, HS, HV, I, JA, KH6, KL7, KP2, KP3, LA, LX, LZ, OE, OK, OM, ON, OZ, PA, PJ5, PJ7, S5, S9, SM, T9, VE, VP2E, VP2M, VR, XE, XX9, YO, YU, Z37. By 15 years old he had been to 35 states. He has travelled over all 50 states and has given out 1500 counties!

John is also a member of Downey Amateur Radio Club, and Orange County Amateur Radio Club. He is a life member of 10-10 International, ARRL, and Amsat. His outside interests are Boy Scouts of America, Elks, and Los Angeles County Sheriff- Disaster Communications Services.

John's educational background is even more impressive than his ham resume. He graduated high school in 1961 and attended Junior College. From there he earned his teaching degrees in Mathematics, Economics, Graphic Arts, Electronics, and Chemistry at California State University at Long Beach. John also did his post graduate work at UCLA in Photography, Graphics Arts, and Electronics. He also studied computers at The University of California, Riverside.

After graduation John started his career working at Hughes Aircraft Company in El Segundo, California. He worked in the Aerospace Division which is a predecessor to the Space and Communication Group and the Missile System Group. John was a QA inspector on the Phoenix Missile System Program. In 1967 he began teaching and retired 2002. John taught mathematics, photography, science, graphic arts and computers to students from 7th grade to adult. In 1980, concurrent with his teaching, he started a computer sales business, Elephant Walk Enterprises. In 1985 he merged with four Apple Computer stores in Orange County and sold the business in 1987.

Currently John's station consists of an Icom IC-7800 transceiver, a Yaesu FT-1000MP, an Ameritron AL-1500 amplifier and an ACOM 2000A auto tune amplifier. On the tower is a SteppIR 4 element yagi with the 40 dipole option at 40 feet and an inverted V for 80. John's favorite mode is RTTY.



John's funniest recollection over his long ham experience happened in 1958. "When I was talking to a local on 20 meters around 11:00 PM I was talking about this guy W6AM who was working DX on a dead band. Then a station came on our frequency with a 40 over signal. It turned out to be W6AM, and he invited me to visit his station in RPV. Next Saturday, made the trip and as soon I saw his station, I understood what was going on. I always remember after that to watch what I am saying over the airways."

In closing when John was asked what advice would you give a newbie DXer or contester he responded, "Operate with an old timer - any of us would like to offer our station as training ground." How else would you expect a lifelong teacher and mentor to respond? How about it old timers, ready to take a newcomer under your wings?

Bill, N6RV



DX ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Celebrate the Successes of Our Fellow Members!

K6FG Hits 305 on DXCC RTTY (K6YUI)

Mark has added another DXCC entity to his DXCC RTTY standings! Way to go Mark. You are heading to the Honor Roll! Maybe this sun-spot peak will do it!

K6YUI #64 20 Meter WAZ RTTY (N6RV)

El Presidente has achieved an accomplishment that only 63 others have achieved before him. Have you noticed how RTTY is becoming more popular these days. Well Larry has been at it for quite some time. Way to go Larry!

SCDXC WAZ and DXCC Standings (N6RV)

The first of the two large numbers represent the number of confirmed zones on the 9 HF bands 160-10 (less 60 meters). The next column contain the following codes:

M **Mixed**
P **Phone**
C **CW**
R **RTTY**
5 **5 Band**

If you have any information to post please email me:

N6RV@SCDXC.ORG

SCDXC WAZ STADINGS

	<u>9B / 5B</u>	<u>Awards</u>
WA5VGI	352 / 200	M/P/C/5
W6VX	352 / 199	
EU7SA	351 / 200	M/5
K6FG	344 / 200	M/P/C/R/5
W6SR	342 / 200	M/P/C//5
W8DX	339 / 200	M/5
K6YUI	337 / 200	M/P/C/R/5
W6YOO	303 / 200	M/P/C/5
K6YRA	280 / 200	P/5
KC6X	278 / 200	M/C/5
K6LD	271 / 172	M/P
N6RV	266 / 173	M/P/C
KR6C	264 / 166	M/C
KJ6Y	261 / 172	
WD6L	248 / 200	M/P/5
K6SY	246 / 173	P
K6G XO	227 / 193	M
N6OU	220 / 200	M/5
N6DHZ	214 / 160	P
KH6DX/m	210 / 184	
K2PLF	191 / 191	
K6KII	191 / 177	M
W6NRQ	180 / 147	M/P
WA6BOB	152 / 136	M
K6IRA	118 / 102	
W3SE	102 / 112	
K6VC	96 / 96	P
W6EA	92 / 86	
KA6TTV	82 / 67	
N6UC	78 / 78	M
W6IRD	67 / 64	M/P
N6GIL	49 / 43	
W6DCK	40 / 40	P
WB6PSY	40 / 40	P
K6IRD	39 / 34	
K6YR	39 / 39	
KT6LA	36 / 36	
NZ6L	36 / 36	
N6VNI	35 / 35	
W4EF	29 /	
N6AWD		M
N6HC		M/P/C
KB6KTV		P
W6OES		M
K8RD		C
K6UNR	/ 200	M/P/5

SCDXC DXCC STADINGS

	<u>TOT / CUR</u>
K6KII	382 / 338
JA1BK	377 / 338
K6YRA	372 / 338
N6UC	365 / 338
K6YUI	360 / 338
K6EXO	360 / 335
W6HT	354 / 334
W6SR	353 / 338
WA6WZO	352 / 338
K5KT	350 / 338
K6FG	350 / 338
K6G XO	350 / 338
K8RD	350 / 337
N6RV	350 / 337
K2PLF	349 / 338
K6IPV	349 / 331
W8DX	348 / 337
W6OM	347 / 337
KC6X	344 / 337
W6AUG	344 / 337
W6OES	344 / 329
W6KK	343 / 338
W6VX	343 / 338
N6AWD	343 / 336
K6LD	343 / 338
W6DCK	342 / 336
WB6PSY	342 / 333
EU7SA	340 / 336
KB6KTV	340 / 335
W6YOO	340 / 334
WA5VGI	342 / 336
KR6C	337 / 335
N6OU	334 / 329
N6HC	333 / 328
K6UNR	332 / 331
W6QE	332 / 324
W6IRD	327 / 324
KJ6Y	327 / 323
K6SY	312 / 310
AD6KQ	299 / 299
WD6L	295 / 292
W6HB	291 / 285
N6DHZ	286 / 284
W6NRQ	284 / 284
N7CQQ	268 / 266
K6YR	244 / 244
K6DJ	236 / 236
K6VC	227 / 227
K6IRD	219 / 219
K6HCJ	202 / 202
WA6BOB	202 / 198
KT6LA	161 / 161
N6VNI	147 / 147
KA6TTV	145 / 145
K6OGO	142 / 142
W6EA	138 / 138
W6VWV	134 / 134
W4EF	132 / 132
K6LX	125 / 125
WA6NOL	112 / 111
NZ6L	27 / 27

**YOU THOUGHT YOU SAW THE
LAST OF THIS... HUH?**

WE ARE SERIOUS ABOUT THIS!

**GET YOUR DXER OF THE YEAR
NOMINATIONS AND CLIPPERTON
AWARD APPLICATIONS IN ASAP.**

THE DEADLINE IS MARCH 1st!

SPURIOUS OUTPUTS

Comments, Announcements, and Interesting Tid-Bits Submitted by Members

A Sad Day Indeed! (ZS5BBO / ZL1BBO)

It is a very sad day for me!!

I have just sent in the documentation to cancel my call sign ZS5BBO. After receiving ZR5E in 1994 after writing my RAE I went on to get my ZS call sign in 1995 passing the 12 word a minute Morse Code test with Mal and Burt, after which I took out the call sign ZS5BBO.

I enjoyed this call sign over the years and became known in many parts of the world on the HF bands as ZS5 BLACK BOX OPERATOR. Yes a black box operator indeed but very passionate about working DX and contests.

During this time I also had the fortune of being the Chairman of the HARC and the highlight was when our Club hosted the FT5XO team on their way to Kerguelen Island in 2005.

Also while holding this call sign I travelled to the USA and attended the International DX Convention in Visalia and became at the time the only member of the SCDXC from South Africa.

This call sign has been part of me for all these years and today it is given up. It has given me so much fun and made it possible to talk to and meet so many interesting hams around the world.

I am sure this call sign will become available again once ICASA has done the necessary paperwork. I would like to ask that if anyone ever takes over this call sign to please let me know.

So for now I will sign one more time and say 73 and good DX to all my friends in Durban and around the world.

This is ZS5BBO, the one and only ZS5 BLACK BOX OPERATOR closing down.

73

Edwin - ZL1BBO



SPURIOUS OUTPUTS

How to Really Reuse Antenna Parts (JA3CZY / W6NRQ)

I'm very happy to inform you that I just put up a new rotatable Quad-Loop for 40m band about 10 days ago and it works great. It's very simple and cheap antenna. Good for me!!

If you kept your old 20 meter Yagi, put the driven element on top as top section of the quad loop. Connect a 50 ohm feed line to it through a 2:1 balun. Place the second element 10 meters below this top element. It can be any of the remaining 20 meter elements. Split this element in the middle and place a 5 meter tuning stub between the two halves. Then connect a wire to each tip end of the top element and drop them down connecting one to each tip of the bottom element. When you turn the top section of the antenna the bottom element will follow along.

This antenna covers the 7000 to 7200 band width with less than 1.5 VSWR when you tuned 7100. Very nice coverage! You can see more details from my pictures.

Parts list:

- 1: One used 20 meter driven element.
- 2: One used 20 meter element. (Divide it in half.)
- 3: 2 wires each 10m long.
- 4: 5m long of wire for the tuning stub.
- 5: 2:1 balun or Q-match, 100 ohm to 50 ohm feed line.

*Happy New Year and
Happy DXing*

73 de Elvin JA3CZY



SPURIOUS OUTPUTS

New FCC Interaction Website (W6MPB)

From the Gonset CGC Communicator

The FCC is opening a blog to improve "citizen interactions" with the agency. Read about the new service (first URL), then get your feet wet (second URL):

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-295545A1.doc

<http://reboot.fcc.gov/home>

More Interesting Stuff (W6MPB)

From CGC Communicator...

And here is an on-line video showing how Hi-Fi records were made circa 1950. Fascinating technical stuff once you get past the introduction. Run time is 24 minutes and worth it:

<http://www.archive.org/details/SoundAndTheS%20to%20enjoy>

Remember when stations would send a QSL card in exchange for a reception report? The National Radio Club has started to post some cards from the collection of Ernie Cooper who lived in Brooklyn, NY. And he actually heard California stations from the 30s to the 50s.

Frederick Vobbe, W8HDU, w8hdu (at) hf-antenna.com

<http://www.nrcdxas.org> -- click on Pics / Media then QSLs

From The Museum of Radio & Technology in Huntington, West Virginia. This is quite a place:

<http://tinyurl.com/DandyMuseum> <http://oak.cats.ohiou.edu/~postr/MRT/index.htm>

From NAB Tech Brief - The return of rabbit ears...

Just when you thought they were out of the picture, rabbit ears are making a comeback. Viewers are saving on subscriptions while enjoying increased programming via digital side channels. In the Los Angeles area, viewers can reportedly tune in nearly 70 free, over-the-air broadcast channels. Nancy Lam said, "I've saved a lot of money by getting rid of cable. We only had to purchase the antenna one time, and now we have it forever, instead of paying every single month." Los Angeles Times (12/25)

<http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/tOwQjQzAtdpmaGYPEP>

Zip Code Demographics (W6NRQ)

Check out the demographics in your zip code.

<http://zipskinny.com>

SPURIOUS OUTPUTS

MM0GDR/m Mini-DXpedition Photo-Report (W6NRQ)

Steve forwarded this link to the Braehead Moss National Nature Reserve (GMFF-010) organized by members of the Scottish-Russian Amateur Radio Society (SRARS) on 23rd January, 2010.

<http://www.srars.org/wff-reports/gmff-010.htm>

This is great photo journey of a Scottish peat bog that is a national park.

Happy Birthday! (N6RV)

We have several young folks among us celebrating their birthdays this month.

Happy Birthday to the following:

W6CCC	Jerry Solomon
KD6HYN	Linda Souder
EU7SA	Andrey Teterukov
K6VC	Cathy Gardenias
N6VNI	George Jacob
W6ZPL	Bob "Bubba" Paquette

Wish them a happy birthday when you see them at the next meeting!

2010 Visalia International DX Convention Polo Shirts (N6VNI)

George forwarded this picture of the convention shirts. This year the patch is embroidered into the shirt as well as your name and call sign. Here are the specifics:

Port Authority ® - Pique Knit Sport Shirt with Pocket. K420P

We garment washed our pique knit sport shirt for softness and added a pocket for pens and more.

- 7-ounce, 100% ring spun combed cotton
- Double-needle stitching throughout
- Flat knit collar and cuffs
- Locker patch
- Horn-tone buttons
- Side vents
- Adult Sizes: XS-6XL
- Color: Light Blue

This shirt is fantastic! See how it makes George look 20 years younger!



SPURIOUS OUTPUTS

Candid Camera (From PH0TO)

Did you guess? OK we won't keep you in suspense any longer. The first pictures are the QTH of our past president Jim Zimmerman, N6KZ, in Prescott Az. What a location! Looking West to East through North he has no one for miles. Notice the pebbles in the second picture. That is a flood control channel. His nearest neighbor is 200 feet away! This is a new antenna friendly tract. His 50 foot tower sports a TH11 and a 40/30 dipole. In the backyard is a vertical probably for 160 and 80/75.



Equally impressive is the N6VR ranch in Chino Valley, Az. Ray has a 2.5 acre spread. On it he has already put up a 50 foot rotating mast with an A3, an R-7 vertical, a 160 meter inverted L and an LM-470 awaiting larger antennas I am sure. Ray tells us that the big towers are on their way! Notice the wife friendly ham shack? It is advertised as an mother-in-law house. It seems Ray is remanded to the shack and mom is in the house :-)! Great location Ray! I have considered moving there and have shopped right in your neighborhood.



2010 ARRL International DX Competition

Strategy and Band Plan

Another great pair of contests are upon us and another opportunity to bump up your WAZ and DXCC standings. You editor has been busy running simulations and building band plans for the upcoming events. One thing that done differently in the band plan and simulations was the Solar Flux Index. Since the two events are so close together, 2 weeks apart, the SFI was varied by 5 points from the predict for the second contest, SSB. The reasoning is since they are so close together the predicts will be nearly the same given the same SFI. By increasing the second SFI we have two sets of predicts that span a larger SFI range. If the SFI during the CW weekend is above 100 use the SSB band plan. If the SFI during the SSB weekend is below 95 then use the CW band plan.

A major difference between the two contests is the activity on 40 & 80/75. Basically the CW contests have more activity and easier access to stations on those two bands in particular. Remember in the phone contest to stay on 20 longer while looking at 40 in the late afternoon and evenings. Then shifting over to 40 and watching 75 or passing over all three in the early evening. In general it is best to just follow the crowd. If the DX moves you move with them.

A few point about the predictions are in order. First for 80 meters through 20 meters the probability of an opening was set to 50% or more. Actually the peak of the openings were always at 75% or more. On 10 meters and 15 meters the probabilities were as low as 1% and above. This is particularly true for Europe, Central Asia, Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean regions. Many of the openings were less than 25% probability. In simple terms do not hold your breath. On the other hand if you have an above average station with high antennas and patterns that have gain at lower elevation angles then the times indicated may be when you should go hunting for those rare ones. The minimum elevation angle used for the predictions was 10 degrees. Most of our antennas do not have significant gain even at that elevation angle. One can only hope!

One interesting outcome is how pronounced grey line propagation is when the SFI is low. You have to time things well in order to catch some of the very short openings. Furthermore you have to move quickly from band to band to catch them all. Make sure you have a plan going in.

Note that 80 & 40 are almost solely night time bands, 20 has a little going on at night but is mostly a day time band, and 15 & 10 are solely day time bands. Though this seems intuitive it is a characteristic of a solar minimum. As we head towards the peak 20, 15, & 10 will be open practically 24 hours with 20 meters open world wide in particular to the Middle East and Indian Ocean at night. 15 & 10 will be loaded with Asia and Pacific as well as surprise long path to Europe and Indian Ocean. When that happens expect little activity on 80 & 160. It is not for lack of propagation rather the DX stations will have better pickings on the higher frequency bands.

I would like to get members contest logs and correlate the data against the predictions. I will be putting out a call for logs later this year.

I have given Jim, N6DHz, both workbooks one for each contest. He will upload them to the club web page. Feel free to download and modify it as suits your needs. Any feedback on the format would be appreciated.

Bill N6RV

2010 ARRL CW DX COMPETITION STRATEGY

Legend			Eu - Europe Afr - Arica IO - Indian Ocean ME - Middle East Cas - Central Asia As - Asia Pac - Pacific SA - South America Car - Caribbean	
Week Before			Checked out the bands. Look for unusual propagation and unusual times. Watch and search DX Summit for announcements. Try to come up with a trend. Remember there will be a great deal of activity running up to the contest. List what has been on each band and note the times.	
Hour Before			Run across all bands and note who is on what band. For this very reason stations usually stake out a frequency a half hour before the start. See if there is any indication that 10 and 15 will be open. Start at the highest band that is open. It may not open again during the contest.	
LOC	UTC	Propagation	Day 1	Day 2
16:00	0:00	20 Asia & Pac 15 Asia & Pac 10 Pac Quick Sweep	The beginning is the toughest. The competition is the greatest and DX stations want the highest rate. Don't waste time trying to crack a pile up. Note the frequency and move on. You have all weekend to work many of the usual suspects. Look for stations with few callers. Work South America later when the East Coast loses propagation. Concentrate on Asia and the Pacific. The first hour is critical since 20, 15 and 10 close early. Always start at the highest band that is active and work down. It may not be open again.	The next few hours should be the most productive period for Asia and Pacific on 20. 15 may already be dead. 10 may have a few Pacific stations.
17:00	1:00	80 Quick Sweep 40 Quick Sweep 20 Asia Pac SA Car EAfr 15 As Pac	This is our Grey Line. Run across all the bands. 40 is just waking up. Check 40 & 20 for possible IO, Afr, and ME openings. Actually these bands open about hour later but check them early. Too early for 160. For the most part work 20 but keep an eye on 15. For the next two hours it is a great time to pick up SA, CA, Car, Pac, and Asia on 20. The East Coast is in night time and off hunting on 40. We are the last US stations coming for many of these stations on 20.	Take a break and chase multipliers on 160 / 40 / 80 during our Grey Line. 20 may also have some surprises. The predicts say that 20 will be very good from the Caribbean, Pacific, South America and South East Asia.
18:00	2:00	160 Quick Sweep 80 ME Eu Afr SA Car 40 Eu Afr ME CAs IO 20 Asia Pac SA Car	If you have a good antenna on 40 look for the Middle East and Central Asia (UA9). Propagation may be favorable Africa on both 80 & 40. Check 40 for Europe. 20 will still be open to South America, Asia, and the Pacific. There is a very slim chance at Central Asia on 15 at 0230.	Sweep out the bands. It is a good time to be on 20. 40 is just waking up. You can catch Eu, ME, and Afr.
19:00	3:00	160 Quick Sweep 50 Eu Afr Car ME 40 Eu CAs Afr ME SA Car 20 CAs Asia Pac SA Car 15 CAs	Concentrate on Europe on 40 and possibly 80. Typically stay on 20 until the band is dead. This would normally be the time to work Pacific, Asia and Central Asia. Even the Middle East has been workable at this time up to midnight. Predict says there is a small chance for Central Asia on 15 at 0300.	It can get slow on the second night. Pick up bands that were ignored on the first night. Assess what was neglected. Grab the easy multipliers that were missed.
20:00	4:00	160 Eu Afr SA Car 80 Eu Afr SA Car 40 Eu Afr SA Car 20 CAs ME	For the rest of the night move between 40, 80, and 160. For the next two hours however sweep 20 to see if there is any activity. There may be an opening to Central Asia and Persian Gulf as late as 0700Z. You may catch a South Pacific or East Asian multiplier that is just hanging out on the band. At the other end it is a good time to look for Europe and Caribbean multipliers on 160.	Check 160 earlier. Again many DX stations are trying to hit the bands they ignored. 160 and 80 could encounter more activity.
21:00	5:00	160 Eu Afr SA Car Pac 80 Eu Afr ME Car Pac 40 Eu Afr SA Car Car 20 CAs Asia Pac	Remember to work Mexico on all bands. Look for them during the slow times. 160 should be hopping. 80 is the next band of interest. Europe may still be in on 80. Remember during low sunspot activity everyone runs to the low bands. 40 and 80 maybe surprisingly stocked. You will notice that the grey line is passing over the Pacific and Asia for the next several hours. This has two benefits. First people who work will be home to operate and the path will be through darkness which is important for 160 / 80 / 40. 20 will be basically dead though there may be some surprises! Check 20 often over the next few hours. If you have meager antennas on the low bands you may be better off picking up stragglers on 20 and checking 160/40/20 intermittently.	Usually S&P results in running into a lot of dupes. Try a few CQs to see if you can attract some attention. If you have a good antenna on 40 then you may get a response.
22:00	6:00	160 Car Pac Asia 80 Eu Afr Car SA 40 Eu Afr ME SA Car 20 CAs Asia ME	This is a slow time. Look for early Asian openings on 40. Also keep an eye on 20. If there is no early opening the Asian stations tend to stay on 20. Again look for the Middle East and Central Asia on 20. This is the last chance for Eu on 80 / 160. Basically the bands go to As SA & Car after this hour.	Usually Japan starts rolling on 40. Unfortunately most of the big guns are worked the first night. Try calling CQ. Remember to figure out what multipliers have been missed and actively hunt them down.
23:00	7:00	160 Car Pac Asia 80 Car Afr Pac Asia 40 Asia Afr Pac SA Car 20 C As Asia ME	Asia on 40 and 80 should be starting up and stays in for hours. This will run almost all through the night. 20 should be dead but never count it out. Last year 160 was really hopping! Look for Japan and the Pacific there. Japan on 160 should be workable for the next several hours. They are weak but there.	Keep on the Pacific and Asia on 160 / 80 / 40
0:00	8:00	160 Car Pac Asia 80 Car Afr Pac SA Asia 40 Asia SA Car	Work 160 / 80 / 40 follow the grey line propagation.	Keep on the Pacific and Asia on 160 / 80 / 40
1:00	9:00	160 Car Pac Asia 80 Car Afr Pac SA Asia 40 Asia SA Car	Work 160 / 80 / 40 follow the grey line propagation.	Usually this is a good time to go to bed. Try to get up before sunrise.
2:00	10:00	160 Car Pac Asia 80 Car SA Pac Asia 40 Car SA Pac Asia	Work 160 / 80 / 40 follow the grey line propagation.	Usually this is a good time to go to bed. Try to get up before sunrise.
3:00	11:00	160 IO Pac Asia 80 IO SA Pac Asia 40 IO SA Pac Asia	Work 160 / 80 / 40 follow the grey line propagation. Around this time South East Asia should start showing up on 40 / 80. The peak time is 1200 - 1400 on 40 and 1300 on 80.	Usually this is a good time to go to bed. Try to get up before sunrise.

LOC	UTC	Propagation	Day 1	Day 2
4:00	12:00	160 IO Pac Asia 80 IO SA Pac Asia 40 IO SA Pac Asia	The hours before sunrise are very important for the low bands, particularly 80 and 160. Work 160 / 80 / 40 follow the grey line propagation. Chance of Indian Ocean and Middle East on 80 over the next 2 hours	Start on 160 and move up the bands. S&P whatever is around.
5:00	13:00	160 IO Pac Asia 80 IO SA Pac Asia 40 IO SA Pac Asia 20 EU _{LP}	Work 160 / 80 / 40 follow the grey line propagation. Chance of Indian Ocean and Middle East on 80 & 40.	Again hang out on 80. Usually the stations on 40 have already been worked. Also catch some early Europe on 20.
6:00	14:00	160 Pac Asia 80 SA Pac Asia 40 SA Pac Asia 20 EU _{LP}	This is our Grey Line. You really need to be everywhere. Asia and Pacific on 160 / 80 / 40. Long Path Europe on 40 / 20. There is an enhancement for higher angle openings that occur at this time and stations will pop up in a very small time window. 80 is usually the most productive. Long path openings on the other bands are to areas that you can work short path at night except IO on 40.	Crazy time. 80 may have some real interesting stuff right around sunrise. 40 may have LP. It is the best time to work ME (after early evening) on 20.
7:00	15:00	40 Pac 20 ME _{LP} EU _{LP} IO _{LP} ME _{LP} 15 Quick Scan	After the Grey Line rush the propagation folds down to Long Path on 20 and some 15 Caribbean and South America. Over the next few hours European stations starting from Eastern Europe to Western Europe will pop in and drop off as the Grey Line passes over them. At the end of the opening usually Iceland and Scandinavia show up. Actually Northern Europe is around well into the afternoon. 20 starts up about now. 15 opens about an hour to an hour and a half later. Jump on 15 when you can. It may not be there tomorrow!	Go to 15 and 20 and repeat what you did yesterday! Maybe mix it up, if you start on 15 then try 20 or vice versa. Again if you hear stuff you have not worked on 15 stay there until you work it out.
8:00	16:00	20 Eu IO 15 Quick Scan	20 usually opens to Europe before 15 if it opens at all. Spend the first hour on 20. Jump up on 15 and work stations that are not getting any response. They are usually the big guns who have worked out the East Coast in the hours preceding our sunrise.	Go to 15 and 20 and repeat what you did yesterday! Maybe mix it up, if you start on 15 then try 20 or vice versa. Again if you hear stuff you have not worked on 15 stay there until you work it out.
9:00	17:00	20 Eu Afr IO ME SA Car 15 Eu Afr IO SA Car 10 Car	When 15 opens up jump on it. You never know how long it will stay in. Good time for Indian Ocean also. If you can run Europe then go for it. Do not neglect multipliers!	Go to 15 and 20 and repeat what you did yesterday! Maybe mix it up, if you start on 15 then try 20 or vice versa. Again if you hear stuff you have not worked on 15 stay there until you work it out.
10:00	18:00	20 Eu Afr IO ME SA Car 15 Eu Afr IO SA Car 10 Car SA	Stick to Europe and the Indian Ocean. If you run into another station work them however they will be around until late afternoon so don't miss the other openings. If you can run Europe then go for it!	DX starts looking to fill in their rates with contacts on 15 and multipliers on 10. Spend a lot of time sweeping out both bands then go to 20.
11:00	19:00	20 Eu Afr IO SA Car 15 Eu IO Afr SA Car 10 Car SA Pac	This may be the last opportunity for Europe on 15 and it will be extreme Western Europe at that.	It is always the case that certain stations show up only on Sunday afternoon. Also the tendency for Caribbean, Pacific, and South American contest single op all banders is to catch openings on 10 and 15. Finally Africa, the Caribbean and South America will be going on 20 as well as the remnants of the European opening. From here on out the pile ups can be horrific on new multipliers. Nevertheless if you need them this may be the last chance!
12:00	20:00	20 Eu Afr IO Pac 15 IO Afr SA Car 10 Car SA Pac	Europe on 15 is probably long gone. 15 will now be like 10 is at the sunspot peak. Work South America and the Caribbean and then swing around to Asia in the late afternoon. It may be run time on 20 for Japan. You may be able to run Europe on 20.	Keep trying to crack those tough nuts. The pile ups will be huge but it only takes one.
13:00	21:00	20 Eu Afr IO Pac Car 15 IO Afr SA Car 10 Car SA Pac	Europe will be sparse on 20. If you can run Japan on 15 do it. If not then try 20. Otherwise S&P South America and the Caribbean. Usually this is great time but with low SFI it is a quasi slow time.	Try to run Japan on the band you ignored. Do things in reverse. Sweep the band you ran on yesterday and run the one you swept. This will give you the best chance for a decent rate.
14:00	22:00	20 Afr As Pac Car 15 SA Car As 10 Car SA Pac	Peak time for Asia. Also remember to swing the antenna to the South Pacific. The Pacific hangs in until late at night but the permanent DX stations are in and out during this time and you have to snag them when they are there.	Try to run Japan on the band you ignored. Do things in reverse. Sweep the band you ran on yesterday and run the one you swept. This will give you the best chance for a decent rate.
15:00	23:00	20 Afr As Pac Car 15 SA Car As 10 Car SA Pac	The predicts say Africa will peak at this time on 20. Asia should be on 20 and 15. Also this is the time when the East Coast abandons South America and there is opportunity to run South America. Again do not ignore the Pacific.	Here we are at the end of the contest. Time to go wild and run across 10 through 40. Work fast and furious. It is the home stretch.

[illegible]

2010 ARRL SSB DX COMPETITION STRATEGY

Legend			Eu - Europe Afr - Africa IO - Indian Ocean ME - Middle East Cas - Central Asia As - Asia Pac - Pacific SA - South America Car - Caribbean	
Week Before			Checked out the bands. Look for unusual propagation and unusual times. Watch and search DX Summit for announcements. Try to come up with a trend. Remember there will be a great deal of activity running up to the contest. List what has been on each band and note the times.	
Hour Before			Run across all bands and note who is on what band. For this very reason stations usually stake out a frequency a half hour before the start. See if there is any indication that 10 and 15 will be open. Start at the highest band that is open. It may not open again during the contest.	
LOC	UTC	Propagation	Day 1	Day 2
16:00	0:00	20 Afr Asia & Pac IO 15 Afr Asia & Pac 10 Asia & Pac Quick Sweep	The beginning is the toughest. The competition is the greatest and DX stations want the highest rate. Don't waste time trying to crack a pile up. Note the frequency and move on. You have all weekend to work many of the usual suspects. Look for stations with few callers. Work South America later when the East Coast loses propagation. Concentrate on Asia and the Pacific. The first hour is critical since 20, 15 and 10 close early. Always start at the highest band that is active and work down. It may not be open again. The SFI may be high enough to catch Japan on 10 Meters. Now would be the time.	The next few hours should be the most productive period for Asia and Pacific on 20. 15 may already be dead. 10 may have a few Pacific stations.
17:00	1:00	75 Quick Sweep 40 Quick Sweep 20 Asia Pac SA Car Eafir IO 15 Asia Pac SA 10 Pac	This is our Grey Line. Run across all the bands. 40 is just waking up. Check 40 & 20 for possible IO, Afr, and ME openings. Actually these bands open about hour later but check them early. Too early for 160. For the most part work 20 but keep an eye on 15. For the next two hours it is a great time to pick up SA, CA, Car, Pac, and Asia on 20. The East Coast is in night time and off hunting on 40. We are the last US stations coming for many of these stations on 20.	Take a break and chase multipliers on 160 / 40 / 75 during our Grey Line. 20 may also have some surprises. The predicts say that 20 will be very good from the Caribbean, Pacific, South America and South East Asia.
18:00	2:00	160 Quick Sweep 75 Afr SA Car 40 Eu Afr ME CAs IO SA 20 Afr Asia Pac SA Car 15 As Pac SA	If you have a good antenna on 40 look for the Middle East and Central Asia (UA9). Propagation may be favorable Africa on both 75 & 40. Check 40 for Europe. 20 will still be open to Africa South America, Asia, and the Pacific. If the SFI is high enough there may be some activity on 15.	Sweep out the bands. It is a good time to be on 20. 15 and 10 may still be open. 40 is just waking up. You can catch Eu, ME, and Afr.
19:00	3:00	160 Quick Sweep 75 Eu Afr Car ME 40 Eu CAs Afr ME SA Car 20 CAs Asia Pac SA Car 15 As SA	Concentrate on Europe on 40 and possibly 75. Typically stay on 20 until the band is dead. This would normally be the time to work Pacific, Asia and Central Asia. Even the Middle East has been workable at this time up to midnight. Predict says ME on 40.	It can get slow on the second night. Pick up bands that were ignored on the first night. Assess what was neglected. Grab the easy multipliers that were missed.
20:00	4:00	160 Eu Afr SA Car 75 Eu Afr SA Car 40 Eu Afr ME SA Car 20 CAs ME Pac	For the rest of the night move between 40, 75, and 160. For the next two hours however sweep 20 to see if there is any activity. There may be an opening to Central Asia and Persian Gulf as late as 0700Z. You may catch a South Pacific or East Asian multiplier that is just hanging out on the band. At the other end it is a good time to look for Europe and Caribbean multipliers on 160.	Check 160 earlier. Again many DX stations are trying to hit the bands they ignored. 160 and 75 could encounter more activity.
21:00	5:00	160 Eu Afr SA Car Pac 75 Eu Afr SA Car Pac 40 Eu Afr SA Pac Car 20 CAs	Remember to work Mexico on all bands. Look for them during the slow times. 160 should be hopping. 75 is the next band of interest. Europe may still be in on 75. Remember during low sunspot activity everyone runs to the low bands. 40 and 75 maybe surprisingly stocked. You will notice that the grey line is passing over the Pacific and Asia for the next several hours. This has two benefits. First people who work will be home to operate and the path will be through darkness which is important for 160 / 75 / 40. 20 will be basically dead though there may be some surprises! Check 20 often over the next few hours. If you have meager antennas on the low bands you may be better off picking up stragglers on 20 and checking 160/40/20 intermittently.	Usually S&P results in running into a lot of dupes. Try a few CQs to see if you can attract some attention. If you have a good antenna on 40 then you may get a response.
22:00	6:00	160 Car Pac Asia 75 Eu Afr Car SA 40 Eu Afr ME SA Car 20 CAs	This is a slow time. Look for early Asian openings on 40. Also keep an eye on 20. If there is no early opening the Asian stations tend to stay on 20. Again look for the Middle East and Central Asia on 20. This is the last chance for Eu on 75 / 160. Basically the bands go to As SA & Car after this hour.	Usually Japan starts rolling on 40. Unfortunately most of the big guns are worked the first night. Try calling CQ. Remember to figure out what multipliers have been missed and actively hunt them down.
23:00	7:00	160 Car Pac Asia 75 Eu Afr CAs Car Pac 40 Asia Afr Pac SA Car	Asia on 40 and 75 should be starting up and stays in for hours. This will run almost all through the night. 20 should be dead but never count it out. Last year 160 was really hopping! Look for Japan and the Pacific there. Japan on 160 should be workable for the next several hours. They are weak but there.	Keep on the Pacific and Asia on 160 / 75 / 40
0:00	8:00	160 Car Pac Asia 75 Eu Car Afr Pac SA Asia 40 Eu Afr Pac SA Car	Work 160 / 75 / 40 follow the grey line propagation.	Keep on the Pacific and Asia on 160 / 75 / 40
1:00	9:00	160 Car Pac Asia 75 Eu Car Pac SA Asia 40 Eu Asia SA Car	Work 160 / 75 / 40 follow the grey line propagation.	Usually this is a good time to go to bed. Try to get up before sunrise.
2:00	10:00	160 Car Pac Asia 75 Eu Car SA Pac Asia 40 Eu IO Car SA Pac Asia	Work 160 / 75 / 40 follow the grey line propagation.	Usually this is a good time to go to bed. Try to get up before sunrise.
3:00	11:00	160 IO Pac Asia 75 IO SA Pac Asia Car 40 IO SA Pac Asia Car	Work 160 / 75 / 40 follow the grey line propagation. Around this time South East Asia should start showing up on 40 / 75. The peak time is 1200 - 1400 on 40 and 1300 on 75.	Usually this is a good time to go to bed. Try to get up before sunrise.

LOC	UTC	Propagation	Day 1	Day 2
4:00	12:00	160 IO Pac Asia 75 IO SA Pac Asia 40 Eu IO SA Pac Asia	The hours before sunrise are very important for the low bands, particularly 75 and 160. Work 160 / 75 / 40 follow the grey line propagation. Chance of Indian Ocean and Middle East on 75 over the next 2 hours	Start on 160 and move up the bands. S&P whatever is around.
5:00	13:00	160 IO Pac Asia 75 IO Asia 40 IO Pac Asia 20 EU _{LP}	Work 160 / 75 / 40 follow the grey line propagation. Chance of Indian Ocean and Middle East on 75 & 40.	Again hang out on 75. Usually the stations on 40 have already been worked. Also catch some early Europe on 20.
6:00	14:00	160 Pac Asia 75 SA Pac Asia 40 EU _{LP} SA Pac Asia 20 EU _{LP}	This is our Grey Line. You really need to be everywhere. Asia and Pacific on 160 / 75 / 40. Long Path Europe on 40 / 20. There is an enhancement for higher angle openings that occur at this time and stations will pop up in a very small time window. 75 is usually the most productive. Long path openings on the other bands are to areas that you can work short path at night except IO on 40.	Crazy time. 75 may have some real interesting stuff right around sunrise. 40 may have LP. It is the best time to work ME (after early evening) on 20.
7:00	15:00	40 Pac As 20 ME _{LP} Eu _{LP} IO _{LP} ME _{LP} 15 Quick Scan Eu As	After the Grey Line rush the propagation folds down to Long Path on 20 and some 15 Caribbean and South America. Over the next few hours European stations starting from Eastern Europe to Western Europe will pop in and drop off as the Grey Line passes over them. At the end of the opening usually Iceland and Scandinavia show up. Actually Northern Europe is around well into the afternoon. 20 starts up about now. 15 opens about an hour to an hour and a half later. Jump on 15 when you can. It may not be there tomorrow!	Go to 15 and 20 and repeat what you did yesterday! Maybe mix it up, If you start on 15 then try 20 or vice versa. Again if you hear stuff you have not worked on 15 stay there until you work it out.
8:00	16:00	20 Eu IO ME As 15 Eu Asia	20 usually opens to Europe before 15 if it opens at all. Spend the first hour on 20. Jump up on 15 and work stations that are not getting any response. They are usually the big guns who have worked out the East Coast in the hours preceding our sunrise.	Go to 15 and 20 and repeat what you did yesterday! Maybe mix it up, If you start on 15 then try 20 or vice versa. Again if you hear stuff you have not worked on 15 stay there until you work it out.
9:00	17:00	20 Eu Afr IO ME SA Car 15 Eu Afr IO SA Car 10 Car	When 15 opens up jump on it. You never know how long it will stay in. Good time for Indian Ocean also. If you can run Europe then go for it. Do not neglect multipliers!	Go to 15 and 20 and repeat what you did yesterday! Maybe mix it up, If you start on 15 then try 20 or vice versa. Again if you hear stuff you have not worked on 15 stay there until you work it out.
10:00	18:00	20 Eu Afr IO ME SA Car 15 Eu Afr IO SA Car 10 Car SA	Stick to Europe and the Indian Ocean. If you run into another station work them however they will be around until late afternoon so don't miss the other openings. If you can run Europe then go for it!	DX starts looking to fill in their rates with contacts on 15 and multipliers on 10. Spend a lot of time sweeping out both bands then go to 20.
11:00	19:00	20 Eu Afr IO SA Car Pac 15 Eu IO Afr SA Car 10 Afr IO Car SA Pac	This may be the last opportunity for Europe on 15 and it will be extreme Western Europe at that.	It is always the case that certain stations show up only on Sunday afternoon. Also the tendency for Caribbean, Pacific, and South American contest single op all banders is to catch openings on 10 and 15. Finally Africa, the Caribbean and South America will be going on 20 as well as the remnants of the European opening. From here on out the pile ups can be horrific on new multipliers. Nevertheless if you need them this may be the last chance!
12:00	20:00	20 Eu Afr IO SA Car Pac 15 Eu Afr Pac SA Car 10 Afr IO Car SA Pac	Europe on 15 is probably long gone. 15 will now be like 10 is at the sunspot peak. Work South America and the Caribbean and then swing around to Asia in the late afternoon. It may be run time on 20 for Japan. You may be able to run Europe on 20.	Keep trying to crack those tough nuts. The pile ups will be huge but it only takes one.
13:00	21:00	20 Eu Afr IO SA Car Pac 15 Eu Afr Pac SA Car 10 Afr Car SA Pac	Europe will be sparse on 20. If you can run Japan on 15 do it. If not then try 20. Otherwise S&P South America and the Caribbean. Usually this is great time but with low SFI it is a quasi slow time.	Try to run Japan on the band you ignored. Do things in reverse. Sweep the band you ran on yesterday and run the one you swept. This will give you the best chance for a decent rate.
14:00	22:00	20 Eu Afr As Pac SA Car 15 Afr SA Car As 10 Afr Car SA Pac	Peak time for Asia. Also remember to swing the antenna to the South Pacific. The Pacific hangs in until late at night but the permanent DX stations are in and out during this time and you have to snag them when they are there.	Try to run Japan on the band you ignored. Do things in reverse. Sweep the band you ran on yesterday and run the one you swept. This will give you the best chance for a decent rate.
15:00	23:00	20 Eu Afr SA As Pac Car 15 Afr SA Car As 10 As SA Pac	The predicts say Africa will peak at this time on 20. Asia should be on 20 and 15. Also this is the time when the East Coast abandons South America and there is opportunity to run South America. Again do not ignore the Pacific.	Here we are at the end of the contest. Time to go wild and run across 10 through 40. Work fast and furious. It is the home stretch.

[illegible]

2010 INTERNATIONAL DX CONVENTION

A Great Time with Great Friends

2010 VISALIA IDXC COMMITTEE

If anyone was wondering how many people does it take to pull off a convention well here is a portion of the 2010 committee. We captured 30 of these rare breed in on photograph. It was a little difficult to get them to stand still long enough! Missing from this photo are a few contributors from SCDXC, several contributors from the SDDXC, all the contributors from the CADXA and various others from Central California, Utah and other parts of the Southwest plus a couple of people who currently are unaffiliated with any club. Now this is the kind of team you want running the big show! All told there are around 50 members and that does not include the speakers, presenters and foreign guests.

Here are the brief highlights of the January 23rd meeting:

- 1) In general everything is on track and going well!
- 2) The Saturday tour for the ladies and interested parties is a trip to Clovis. Attendees will enjoy architectural tour of the town, the antiques shops and will sit down for a high tea luncheon at a celebrated 1900 era house filled with antiques followed by a tour of the botanical gardens.
- 3) A sample of the polo shirt with the convention patch embroidered on as well as call sign and name was displayed. It looks really good!
- 4) The 50's theme decorations were also displayed. These look cool! Remember to dress in your best from that era!
- 5) Prizes are just starting to flow in. Check this out! Two big prizes this year are a 40 tubular tower from US Towers and an **Alpha 8410 manual tune amplifier!** The way things are shaping up we are going to have some great prizes!
- 6) Registrations are flowing in. We have several DX personalities flying in for the shindig!
- 7) The golf tournament is set. Game on!
- 8) Patches and pins will be ready by Jan 27th
- 9) QSL card checking will be headed up by K7UT from Utah.
- 10) The Sunday contest "Are You Smarter than a DXer" is ready to go. All we need are non-DXer female types to volunteer their services!
- 11) The banquet seating reservation instructions are now on the webpage!

15th Annual Islands On The Air (IOTA) Dinner Announcement

The 15th annual **Islands On The Air** (IOTA) Dinner will be held on Friday, 16 April 2010, in the Plaza Room of the Holiday Inn Hotel, 9000 W. Airport Drive, Visalia, CA 93277, phone: 559 651-5000, in conjunction with the 61th annual Visalia International DX Convention. See the DX Convention Web site for details on the Convention: <http://dxconvention.org/>

This dinner is open to all who are interested or active in the IOTA program. If you do not desire dinner, you may sit and enjoy the IOTA program following the dinner.

The program agenda is as follows:

1730 - 1830	Doors open, socializing and eyeball QSOs (Drinks available on order)
1830	Dinner served, buffet style Welcoming & Introductions
1845	IOTA Programs begin IOTA Presentations (TBD) Door prizes
2200	Closing

The dinner will be served buffet style in the Birch Room at a cost of \$30 per person (service charge and tax included). The buffet menu will contain entrée choice of beef or chicken along with salad, vegetables, dinner rolls, dessert, and a beverage (coffee, ice water, or ice tea). Vegetarian meal is available with two weeks notice. Wine and liquor can be purchased separately.

Reservations are not required but we'd like to know if you are attending. Please contact one of the two coordinators below. The buffet service is for 60 persons and seating for 75 persons.

Attendees will pay as they enter at the door with cash. We are offering advanced payment by check (\$30 per person) received at least two weeks prior to the dinner to N6VR's address below. Admission is free for those wishing to watch the programs without dinner. Seating will be "first come, first seated".

For additional information regarding this event, please contact:

Ray Benny, N6VR
IOTA Dinner Coordinator
Phone: 928 848-2158
462 South Reed Road,
Chino Valley, AZ 86323
rayn6vr@cableone.net
Or,
Will Costello, WC6DX



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